

NIH Information Quality **INTRANET**

Definitions and Concepts

Dissemination: Agency initiated or sponsored distribution of information to the public (see 5 CFR 1320.3(d) (definition of “Conduct or Sponsor”)).

Highly Influential: A scientific assessment is considered “highly influential” if the NIH or OMB determines that the dissemination could have a potential impact of more than \$500 million in any one year on either the public or private sector or that the dissemination is novel, controversial, or precedent-setting, or has significant interagency interest.

Influential Scientific Information: Scientific information the agency reasonably can determine will have or does have a clear and substantial impact on important public policies or private sector decisions, or will have important consequences for specific health practices, technologies, substances, products, or firms. The definition of influential applies to “information” itself, not to decisions that the information may support.

Official NIH Views: The NIH Information Quality guidelines describe official NIH information to include information approved through the NIH clearance process and intended to represent the views of NIH.

Scientific Assessments: An evaluation of a body of scientific or technical knowledge that typically synthesizes multiple factual inputs, data, models, assumptions, and/or applies best professional judgment to bridge uncertainties in the available information. For purposes of the OMB Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review, a scientific assessment is one that uses a formal methodology. A formal methodology applies a rigorous, systematic approach to the collection and analysis of data.

Scientific Information: Factual inputs, data, models, analyses, technical information, or scientific assessments related to such disciplines as the behavioral and social sciences, public health and medical sciences, life and earth sciences, engineering, or physical sciences. This includes any communication or representation of knowledge such as facts or data, in any medium or form, including textual, numerical, graphic, cartographic, narrative, or audiovisual forms. This definition includes information that an agency disseminates from a web page, but does not include the provision of hyperlinks on a web page to information that others disseminate. This definition excludes opinions, where the agency’s presentation makes clear that an individual’s opinion, rather than a statement of fact or of the agency’s findings and conclusions, is being offered.

Time-Sensitive: Refers to the need for dissemination to occur because HHS cannot practicably or prudently wait for peer review to occur e.g., (1) addresses potential harm or benefit to health or safety; or (2) meets a statutory, congressional, court-imposed, or other generally immovable deadline.